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Security Information

Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
0454, 2 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 31 December and 1 January only minor probes and patrols contacts were reported across the front. A total of 13,636 rounds of artillery and mortar fire was expended during the two-day period. The most noteworthy action was a series of 10 probing attacks on 1 January against elements of the ROK 12th Division east of the Punch Bowl; the enemy was repulsed in each engagement, the longest of which lasted 45 minutes.

Navy

A total of 202 naval air sorties was flown on 31 December. Aircraft attacked Pungsan, Kilchu and Wonsan on the east coast, and Channampo, Upchori, Ongjin and Haeju on the west coast. Surface units on the east coast bombarded Songjin, Tanchon, Chaho and Wonsan. The area between Amgak to Wolsari was fired on by naval vessels on the west coast. On 1 January, only eight sorties were flown because of foul weather; all the planes involved were from the west coast carrier Badoeng Strait attacking Tanchonni and Haeju.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control on 31 December flew 661 effective sorties, of which 372 were combat. Only three effective medium bomber missions were flown during the night and these aircraft engaged in close support and reconnaissance. On 1 January, 532 effective land-based air sorties were flown, including 285 combat. No enemy aircraft were observed or encountered on either day. On the night of 1-2 January, Far East Bomber Command mounted 14 effective sorties. A marshaling yard at Sopo, near Pyongyang, and an ore processing plant at Moktong in north central Korea were attacked by 10 of the B-29's.

General Situation

Political

Radio Pyongyang announced on 26 December that the North Korean Government had awarded the National Flag Medal, First Class, to Kim Tu-pong, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and member of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party. (The awarding of the nation's highest honor to Kim, one of the leading members of the Yenan faction, is another indication of the increased Chinese Communist influence in North Korea.)

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Security Information

During Ambassador Briggs' New Year call on President Rhee, the latter criticized the Japanese press and accused it of misrepresenting his proposed trip to Japan. He even stated that he was tempted to cancel his visit. (The Japanese press is anticipating far-reaching results from the visit, and there will likely be considerable popular disillusionment and even indignation in Japan if Rhee ignores Japan's top officials.)

In a New Year's Day broadcast, President Rhee declared that the rescue of millions of North Korean "compatriots" can be delayed no longer and that the Korean people will "march to the north, alone if necessary." He predicted that the Eisenhower administration, under the pressure of American public opinion, will take decisive measures to bring a quick end to the war. Rhee again claimed that Korea can be more easily defended along the Yalu than farther south.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
0455, 3 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

On 2 January two company-size attacks, one in the ROK 1st Division sector west of Chariwon, and one in the ROK 9th Division sector on Sniper Ridge were repulsed after engagements lasting almost three hours and one hour respectively. Elsewhere across the front brief probes and patrol clashes were reported. A total of 5,192 rounds of artillery and mortar fell during the day.

Navy

A total of 241 naval air sorties was flown on 2 January. Carrier-based aircraft attacked miscellaneous east coast targets in the vicinity of Iwon, Wonsan, Fusen and Chosin. In a strike against a new building area in the vicinity of Sajidong, 28 buildings and 25 barracks were destroyed. Surface units shelled railroad areas in the vicinity of Songjin, Chaho and Wonsan on the east coast. No naval activity was reported on the west coast.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control on 2 January flew 989 effective sorties, of which 696 were combat. During the night, Far East Air Force bomber command flew 13 effective sorties, nine of which hit Pyongyang. UN pilots while on patrol in the Yalu area observed 28 MIG's, four of which were engaged. There were no reports of enemy losses or friendly damage.

General Situation

Economic

Radio Pyongyang announced on 28 December that the North Korean Government had "adopted. . . measures to improve the business of the Korean Farmers' Bank." The cabinet decision stated that the bank, in addition to simplifying loan procedures to farmers and fishermen, will mobilize state funds and build up resources in order to extend "necessary financial aid to the farming and fishing industries." (This ordinance is another indication that the North Korean regime is taking cognizance of the dire plight of the civilian population. Recent decrees have abolished certain past taxes-in-kind for the farmers and called for the free distribution of consumer goods.)

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Political

Ambassador Briggs reports that President Rhee has decided to cancel his visit to Japan. (Rhee reportedly was disturbed because the Japanese press construed his visit as official. He has consistently maintained that the Japanese must take the next step in improving Japanese-Korean relations.)

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
0456, 5 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

On 3 and 4 January only minor probes and patrol contacts were reported across the front. The most noteworthy action was a company-size attack on Sniper Ridge against an outpost position of the ROK 9th Division. The enemy was repulsed after a one-hour engagement. A total of 10,534 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell during the two-day period.

Navy

Naval air sorties on 3 January totaled 312. Carrier-based aircraft on the east coast ranged from Songjin to Wonsan, while Ongjongni, Changyon, Sariwon and Haeju were attacked on the west coast. Surface units in the Japan Sea fired on Songjin, Chaho and Wonsan. The approaches to Haeju were bombarded by west coast naval vessels. On Sunday, only 45 naval air sorties were flown, all on the west coast, as Task Force 77 engaged in replenishing operations. On the west coast, Chinnampo, Chaeryong, Changyon and the Ongjin Peninsula were attacked by carrier-based sorties. UN naval vessels maintained the blockade and bombarded both Korean coasts on 4 January.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 975 effective sorties on 3 January, of which 640 were combat. UN pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed 135 enemy MIG's and engaged 66 at altitudes from 25,000 to 46,000 feet. Ten MIG's were reported damaged with no losses or damage to UN aircraft. On the night of 3-4 January, 16 effective medium bomber sorties were flown. An enemy troop concentration near Chongju and a supply area northeast of Pyongyang were bombed by 12 B-29's. On 4 January 945 effective land-based sorties were flown, including 676 combat. No enemy aircraft were observed or encountered during the 24-hour period. During the night Far East Air Force Bomber Command mounted 18 effective sorties. Twelve B-29's attacked a supply area and railroad bridge at Huichon, in north central Korea.

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No. 10 JUL 1978 023

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Security Information

Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
0457, 6 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 5 January enemy probes in strengths of one and two platoons were made against outpost positions of the ROK 9th, 3rd, and 7th Divisions. All probes were repulsed after engagements lasting up to one hour and a half. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of minor probes and patrol contacts.

Navy

No report was received concerning naval air operations from Task Force 77 on the east coast, while aircraft from west coast carriers flew 56 sorties on 5 January, attacking Wolsari Peninsula and the area from Unpari to Sinwonni. Four British Sea Furys were shot down by enemy antiaircraft fire and none of the pilots has as yet been rescued. Naval vessels off the east coast bombarded Songjin, Tanchon, Chaho and Wonsan. The report on west coast surface activity has been delayed.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 419 effective sorties on 5 January, of which 199 were combat. In the early afternoon, UN pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed 14 enemy MIG's of which four were engaged at altitudes of 25,000 to 46,000 feet. One MIG was downed with no damage to UN Sabres. During the night, FEAF Bomber Command mounted 17 effective medium bomber sorties with 11 B-29's attacking a supply area at Changjin, just south of Pyongyang. In addition, an ammunition dump near Wonsan was bombed by one B-29.

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Military Intelligence

Ground

No. 10 JUL 1978

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Analysis of the enemy's rail and vehicle transportation for the past three weeks reveals three noteworthy developments. One has been the decrease, percentage-wise, in the number of vehicles sighted in areas south of Pyongyang; second, the increase in the number of trains and locomotives sighted in this area coupled with the probability that they have been transferred from the vicinity of Wonsan; and finally, the continued high proportion of vehicle activity on routes from Pyongyang, Yangdok and Majon-ni into the central sector. Far East Air Force comments that it appears that the enemy has transferred his rail capabilities formerly located in the Wonsan area to the Haeju Peninsula to relieve vehicles for duty in the central sector.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1360, 7 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

Two platoon-sized probes by Chinese Communists in the vicinity of Sniper Ridge marked the action across the front on 6 January. Elements of the ROK 9th Division repulsed these attacks which lasted 30 minutes and an hour and ten minutes, respectively. The enemy employed 8,630 rounds of artillery and mortar fire during the 24-hour report period.

Navy

A total of 73 naval air sorties was flown on 6 January. Aircraft from the US carrier Valley Forge on the east coast ranged from Sinchangni to Sansori, while Chaeryong, Haeju, Chinnampo and Changyon were attacked by west coast aircraft. Surface units in the Japan Sea fired on Songjin, Chaho and Wonsan, while on the opposite coast the approaches to Haeju were fired on.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 806 effective sorties on 6 January, of which 466 were combat. UN pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed 94 enemy MIG's during the day. UN aircraft engaged 12 of the enemy planes and damaged two. There were no losses of or damage to friendly aircraft. On the night of 6-7 January, 15 effective medium bomber sorties were flown, 10 B-29's attacking troop and supply areas near Sinanju.

Military Intelligence

Air

Communist pilots during the week ending 4 January continued to show at times a high degree of proficiency, according to the Far East Air Force. A total of 129 MIG's were observed airborne during the week by UN pilots and 20 were engaged. Two MIG's were destroyed, one probably destroyed and one damaged, while one F-86 was damaged.

The most significant factor in the enemy night interceptor effort occurred on 30 December when, with a full moon, the enemy attacked UN medium bombers near the Yalu River, destroying one B-29 and damaging two others.

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General Situation

Political

Commenting on the 5 January arrival in Tokyo of ROK President Rhee, Ambassador Murphy reports that Rhee "has never received a better press in Japan than he has today, and will be hard put to find anything serious to complain about." Murphy believes, however, that this friendly attitude on the part of the press is the result of "gentle nudging" from the Foreign Ministry, and warns that this may cause the newspapers to read meanings into the visit which are not there. Except for Rhee's unusually moderate and amiable tones since his arrival, Murphy observes that so far little has occurred to justify optimism or to presage an improvement in Japanese-Korean relations.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1361, 8 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

The only ground actions reported along the front on 7 January were brief probes and patrol clashes. The enemy employed some 4,346 rounds of artillery and mortar fire during the report period.

Navy

Naval aircraft flew only 37 sorties because of bad weather conditions. Air operations on the west coast were confined to Ongjin, Haeju and Sariwon where railway targets were attacked. Surface units shelled harbor areas and rail equipment on the east coast between the battle line and Wonsan. On the west coast, two troop areas were shelled near Changsangot and Upchori.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control on 7 January flew 609 effective sorties of which 363 were combat. During the night, 18 effective medium bomber sorties were flown, five B-29's attacking a supply area at Kyongyung-ni, and four hitting marshaling yards at Kowan. UN pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed four enemy MIG's but no engagements resulted.

General Situation

Political

The visit of Rhee and his entourage to Tokyo was overwhelmingly featured in the South Korean press on 6 and 7 January. Ambassador Briggs reports that while the press is nearly unanimous in agreeing that it is up to the Japanese to make the first move in improving the present unfriendly Japanese-Korean relations, these reports indicate a let-up in the hostile attitude which has been characteristic of the Korean press.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1362, 9 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 8 January the principal ground action took place in the eastern sector where two attacks of one- and two-company size were made against outpost positions of the ROK 11th Division. The enemy was repulsed in each case after a brief engagement. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of brief probes and patrol contacts. A total of 4,193 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell during the period.

Navy

No report was received concerning naval air operations on 8 January. Surface units on the east coast bombarded Songjin, Tanchon, Chaho and Wonsan, while on the west coast the area near Cho Island was bombarded.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control on 8 January flew 688 effective sorties of which 329 were combat. During the 24-hour period, 61 enemy MIG's were observed and 12 engaged. One MIG was destroyed and two damaged with no losses to friendly aircraft. On the night of 8-9 January, 11 effective medium bomber missions were flown; seven B-29's attacking a supply area at Hadok-tong, north of Pyongyang, and an airfield at Yonpo, near Hungnam.

General Situation

Political

According to press reports a ROK government source has indicated that diplomatic negotiations with Japan will be resumed in the near future. (Rhee, in a statement made on his departure from Japan, expressed his desire to resume the negotiations which were broken off last April. There have been no official reports, however, that Rhee and Yoshida came to any definite agreement on this.)

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1363, 10 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

Two brief enemy probes of up to company size were reported at scattered points on the front Friday and early Saturday. In the ROK 8th Division sector on the central front, an enemy company which probed outpost positions shortly after midnight 8-9 January was dispersed by artillery fire in mid-afternoon. The ROK 11th Division near the eastern end of the front reported three brief encounters made by enemy troops in up to company strength and lasting up to twenty minutes. In each case the enemy subsequently withdrew. Elsewhere units reported only minor probes and patrol contacts. Nearly 6,000 rounds of mortar and artillery fire fell during the period.

Navy

UN carrier-based aircraft flew 106 sorties on the east coast against targets in the Tanchon, Wonsan, Hamhung and Hyesanjin areas. Fifteen close support sorties were also flown by the navy planes. Surface craft in the east bombarded the enemy coast at Songjin, Tanchon, and Chaho. In the west, although air operations were suspended due to weather, surface vessels fired on targets near UN-held Cho Island and in Haeju Bay.

Air

Bad weather limited the number of effective land-based aircraft sorties to 267, of which 72 were combat, on 9 January. No enemy aircraft were encountered. Medium bombers flew 22 sorties, the bulk of which were against transportation installations near the mouth of the Chongchon River in northwestern Korea.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1364, 12 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

During the early morning of 10 January a Chinese platoon unsuccessfully attacked outpost positions of the ROK 3rd Division in east central Korea. The attack, which lasted for nearly an hour and was supported by 1,700 rounds of artillery and mortar fire, was the only major action on Saturday.

On Sunday, the tempo of enemy ground activity increased as Chinese platoon-sized probes were launched against the US 7th Division in the west, the ROK 9th in the center and the ROK 3rd in the east. Early Monday morning, a North Korean attack in over company strength against the newly-arrived ROK 12th Division in the eastern sector was repulsed after a two-hour fight.

Navy

Only 59 naval air sorties were flown on 10 January, all on the west coast against Ongjongni, Kangso, Chinnampo and Ongjin, as Task Force 77 on the east coast engaged in replenishing operations. Surface units on the east coast bombarded Songjin and Sohori, while the areas near Cho Island and Changsangot were fired on by west coast vessels. On 11 January, 51 naval air sorties were flown. Again there were no operations from east coast carriers because of replenishing activity. On the west coast, carrier-based aircraft attacked from Chinnampo to Haeju. Surface units maintained the blockade and bombarded both Korean coasts.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 781 effective sorties on 10 January, including 499 combat. There were no engagements with enemy aircraft during the period, although an F-86 pilot observed approximately 75 swept-wing aircraft on Tatungku airfield and 30 to 40 enemy aircraft on Antung airfield. On the night of 10-11 January, FEAF Bomber Command mounted 18 effective medium bomber sorties. Marshaling yards at Sonchon and Anju were attacked by 11 of the B-29's. One B-29, attacking Anju, received major battle damage due to flak and enemy fighters. The crew was forced to bail out near Pyongyang. On 11 January 355 effective sorties by land-based planes were flown, of which 131 were combat. No enemy aircraft

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were observed or engaged by the UN fighters or fighter-bombers. During the night, 15 effective medium bomber missions were flown. Marshaling yards at Pugwon and Hapochan near Anju were attacked by nine of the B-29's. One other B-29 attacked rail installations at Naewonsan near Wonsan.

General Situation

Economic

US economic observers in South Korea report that the supplementary budget passed by the National Assembly in early December was exhausted in early January, although it was intended to stretch until April. As a result of this budgetary failure, the salaries of some ROK government employees are as much as four months in arrears.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1365, 13 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

The major action on the front took place early Monday morning in the US 7th Division sector in west central Korea where a Chinese company supported by artillery, attacked two outpost positions of the Ethiopian battalion for over an hour before withdrawing. Elsewhere on the front, action was limited to minor probes and patrol clashes. The enemy fired almost 7,000 rounds of artillery and mortar fire during the report period.

Navy

There were no naval air operations off either Korean coast on 12 January due to foul weather and replenishing activity. UN naval vessels on the east coast bombarded gun positions in the vicinities of Songjin, Chaho and Wonsan. Weather conditions prevented any surface activity on the west coast.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control on 12 January flew 769 effective sorties of which 457 were combat. Included were 66 sorties on close support and armed reconnaissance missions for UN ground activity. UN pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed 55 enemy MIG's and engaged five. There was no damage to either friendly or enemy aircraft. During the night 12 effective medium bomber missions were flown; marshaling yards at Chongju and Kwaksan were attacked by ten of the B-29's.

General Situation

Political

The Japanese press has recently carried a number of articles with Pusan datelines on the Rhee-Yoshida talks concerning relations between the two countries. One report stated that upon his return to Korea, President Rhee informed his cabinet that Yoshida had agreed to meet with him in Seoul and that Yoshida had admitted to Rhee that "40 years of Japanese exploitation of Korea" was due to the "militarists." Official observers at the conference, according to Ambassador Murphy in Tokyo, have reported observing no such interchange.

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Economic

Acting Prime Minister Paek Tu-chin has informed the American member of the UN-ROK Combined Economic Board that the ROK will advance 25 billion won for the United Nations. These won drawings are outside the framework of previous ROK-US agreements and the exchange rate for the transaction has not been specified. US officials in Korea, stating that this interim arrangement will provide for UNC currency requirements until mid-January, doubt that negotiations can be completed and the exchange of notes on permanent arrangements can be concluded by that time. (The ROK Government had threatened to cut off further won advances, which average about 30 billion a month, until full dollar reimbursement is made.)

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1366, 14 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 13 January the principal ground action took place in the ROK 9th Division sector where the enemy made three unsuccessful probes of platoon strength. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of minor probes and patrol actions. A total of 6,010 rounds of enemy artillery and mortar fire fell during the period.

Navy

A total of 32 naval air sorties was flown on 13 January, all on the west coast, as inclement weather again prevented any east coast air operations. No report was received concerning Marine air sorties. On the west coast, carrier-based aircraft damaged buildings and railroad tunnels near Chinnampo and Pungsan and on the Ongjin Peninsula. UN naval vessels on the east coast bombarded harbor areas at Wonsan and troop installations near the front. On the west coast, troop installations and gun positions in three villages in the vicinity of Haeju were fired on.

Air

On 13 January UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 1,264 effective sorties of which 920 were combat. During the day, 115 fighters flew close-support missions for UN ground troops. Other UN fighter pilots, on patrol in the Yalu River area, observed 160 enemy MIG's, of which 40 were engaged. Two MIG's were destroyed, two others probably destroyed and one damaged with no losses or damage to friendly aircraft. On the night of 13-14 January, Far East Air Force Bomber Command mounted 16 effective sorties. Six B-29's bombed a marshaling yard at Sinanju while five others attacked the Kunu-ri marshaling yards near Anju.

Military Intelligence

Air

Communist air activity during the week ending 10 January produced no indication of a change in enemy air capabilities. A total of 302 MIG's was observed airborne, of which 94 were engaged by F-86's in 23 engagements. Communist pilots initiated four of the engagements and used hit-and-run

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tactics. Enemy losses were two MIG's destroyed and 20 damaged, while the UN had no losses. The enemy mounted 25 observed night sorties, but made no concentrated effort to intercept UN night intruder aircraft.

Prisoners of War

Two recently captured Chinese Communist officers who claimed to be "deserters" were exposed as political agents with the mission of creating unrest in the UN POW compounds, according to Far East Command. One officer from the 50th Chinese Communist Army stated that he had been trained for approximately 90 days by the political section of the Northeast Military District in methods of indoctrinating the prisoners and inciting them to escape. He claimed that a total of 42 others were in training during the same period. The other officer, from the 47th Chinese Communist Army, had a similar mission, but trained for only 30 days in his division political section, along with 12 other agents.

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SECURITY INFORMATIONCentral Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1367, 15 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 14 January the principal ground action took place in the eastern sector where the enemy made two unsuccessful probes of platoon strength against outpost positions of the ROK 7th Division. Elsewhere across the front, action was light and scattered. A total of 4,983 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell during the report period.

Navy

Naval air sorties on 14 January totaled 33, all on the west coast. No report was received concerning Marine air activity. For the third straight day there were no air operations on the east coast due to inclement weather. On the west coast, troop and supply areas, railroad tunnels and various buildings in the areas near Sariwon, Ongjin and Haeju were attacked by aircraft from the carrier Badoeng Strait. Harbor areas at Chaho and rail lines and a truck convoy at Wonsan were bombarded by UN surface units in the Japan Sea. No report was received concerning west coast surface activity.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew on 14 January 1,102 effective sorties of which 755 were combat. Included were 237 missions in support of UN ground activity. UN Sabre jets on patrol in northwestern Korea observed 185 enemy MIG's during the 24-hour report period. Eight MIG's were knocked down, two probably destroyed and eight reportedly damaged with no losses to UN aircraft. It was the greatest MIG-15 toll taken since 4 September 1952 when 13 were destroyed and four damaged. During the night, FEAF Bomber Command mounted 17 effective medium bomber sorties. An ore-processing area at Kojanbaeji and a marshaling yard at Chongnyong-ni, both to the east of Wonsan, were attacked by 12 of the B-29's.

General Situation

Economic

A substantial increase in US aid will be necessary to sustain or increase the present South Korean military effort, according to Ambassador Briggs. A preliminary analysis of the 1953-54 budget now before the ROK National Assembly discloses that

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5 trillion won are anticipated for military expenditures, based on a force of 12 infantry divisions plus a training cadre for two additional divisions. In noting that the budget shows total revenues of 3 trillion won and total expenditures of 7.2 trillion won, Briggs warns that this deficit will be further increased if it is decided to expand the ROK forces to 17 or more divisions.

Briggs also warns that it is no longer sufficient to maintain the civilian population at its present living standard, which for the bulk of the people spells misery and growing hopelessness, encouraging social disintegration and rendering South Korea increasingly vulnerable to Communist propaganda.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1368, 16 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

On 15 January the principal ground action took place in central Korea where two enemy groups of platoon strength briefly probed outpost positions of the ROK 9th Division. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of minor probes and patrol clashes. A total of 3,966 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell during the period.

Navy

No report was received concerning naval air and surface activity on 15 January.

Air

On 15 January UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 917 effective sorties of which 612 were combat. In flying close-support missions for UN ground activity, 110 fighters and fighter-bombers attacked enemy bunkers, troop concentrations and gun positions along the enemy front line. Meanwhile, other UN fighters tangled with enemy MIG's in northwest Korea. Two MIG's were shot down, one probably destroyed and two more reportedly damaged. During the night, FEAF Bomber Command mounted 19 effective medium bomber sorties. Enemy barracks west of Anju were attacked by ten of the B-29's as the other nine bombers flew close support, leaflet drop and photo reconnaissance missions.

Military Intelligence

Army

Based on recent POW information, the relief of elements of the 8th Division, I North Korean Corps by the 3rd Division, VII North Korean Corps, is now accepted by the Far East Command. Far East Command believes that the VII North Korean Corps, moving into the line between the I and III North Korean Corps, may possibly have a reinforcing role. Since the III North Korean Corps has been in contact since May 1951 and the I North Korean Corps in contact since November 1951, both units are overdue for a relief.

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No. 10 JUL 1978 023

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SECURITY INFORMATIONGeneral Situation

Political

A strongly pro-government newspaper reported on 13 December that a draft plan for a general militia corps divided into a veterans' association and a militia would soon be proclaimed by presidential decree. While the militia, to be comprised of untrained men from 17 to 30, would be responsible to the ROK Army Chief of Staff, the Home Ministry would cooperate in its organization, recruitment, financing and other operations. (Such a militia would be a severe strain on the economy and manpower of South Korea. Its establishment, however, would serve a dual political purpose for President Rhee, it would justify his demands for foreign military aid and would provide a large paramilitary force free of UN control for purely internal political purposes.)

President Rhee may recall Foreign Minister Pyun from the UN to do preparatory work for forming an alliance with Nationalist China and the Philippines, according to reports in four major South Korean newspapers on 13 and 14 January. The acting Foreign Minister informed US officials on 14 January, however, that he had no knowledge of such a plan and understood that Pyun would remain in the US to attend the General Assembly meetings next month. (The Philippines, Nationalist China and South Korea have exchanged opinions on an anti-Communist alliance in the past with negligible results. In addition, the ROK has periodically proposed the establishment of a Pacific Pact similar to NATO which would include the United States.)

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SECURITY INFORMATIONCentral Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1369, 17 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 16 January the principal ground action took place in eastern Korea, where the enemy made three unsuccessful probes of platoon strength against outpost positions of the ROK 3rd Division. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of brief probes and patrol clashes. A total of 4,612 rounds of artillery and mortar fell during the period.

Navy

No report was received concerning air operations from Task Force 77 on the east coast on 16 January. On the west coast, 40 carrier-based sorties were flown; the aircraft attacked a railroad tunnel and numerous buildings housing enemy troops and gun positions from Chinnampo to Haeju. Surface units on the east coast patrolled near Songjin and Chaho, destroyed eight buildings and a mortar position near Wonsan. On the west coast, three troop areas and three gun positions near Wolsari, Upchori and Huryomdong were bombarded by UN naval vessels. No report was received from the 1st Marine Air Wing.

Air

On 16 January, UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 782 effective sorties, of which 467 were combat. Ranging from coast to coast behind the enemy front line, 136 UN aircraft flew close-support missions for UN ground activity. During the night, 17 effective medium bomber missions were flown under the control of FEAF Bomber Command. Ten B-29's attacked two supply areas at Chasan and a troop installation at Yongpung-ni, both to the north of Pyongyang. UN pilots, while on patrol in the Chongchon-Yalu River area, observed 80 enemy MIG-15's. In aerial battles with 12 enemy aircraft, the UN jets destroyed one MIG and damaged another. There was no damage to UN aircraft.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1370, 19 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 17 January the principal ground action took place in the east central sector where two enemy companies supported by tank and artillery fire attacked an outpost position of the ROK 6th Division. The enemy was repulsed after a four-hour engagement. On 18 January an enemy company attacked an outpost position of the US 40th Division and was forced to withdraw after a 40-minute engagement. During the two-day period, the enemy fired a total of 19,589 rounds of artillery and mortar fire.

Navy

Naval air sorties on 17 January totaled 164. Task Force 77 aircraft from the carriers Oriskany and Valley Forge were in offensive operations from Hoeryong to Wonsan to Yangdok, destroying 37 buildings, 16 railroad cars, 9 trucks and 13 troops. Troop installations near Chinnampo and on the Ongjin Peninsula were attacked by naval aircraft on the west coast. Surface units on the east coast bombarded Songjin, Chaho and Wonsan while, on the west coast, gun positions and troop areas near Changsangot and on the Wolsari Peninsula were blasted. On 18 January 149 naval air sorties were flown. These aircraft damaged one power station and a transformer station in a raid on the Fusen hydroelectric system. In addition, Songjin, Pukchong, Kowon, and Wonsan were attacked. West coast aircraft again attacked troop installations on the Ongjin Peninsula. Surface units maintained the blockade and bombarded both Korean coasts.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 687 and 523 effective sorties on 17 and 18 January, respectively. On Saturday 384 of the total sorties were combat missions. These fighters engaged 24 enemy MIG's of the 77 observed during the 24-hour period. One MIG was destroyed and another probably damaged while one UN Sabre sustained minor damage. There were 255 combat sorties on 18 January. No enemy MIG's were engaged although 30 were observed. FEAF Bomber Command mounted 15 effective medium bomber missions on both 17 and 18 January. Eleven B-29's bombed Radio Pyongyang on Saturday while supply areas near the east coastal city of Hongwon were attacked by 12 bombers on Sunday.

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Military Intelligence

Guerrilla Activity

A US Information Service team, recently returned from a field trip through South Cholla Province, reported that Communist elements in rural and remote areas are spreading rumors that President-elect Eisenhower is a Communist and that the populace had better "fall into line." The rumor is made effective because of the poor communications facilities in these areas, and the similarity of the Korean pronunciations of the words "Republican" and "Communist." (South-western Korea, including South Cholla Province, is the stronghold of the guerrillas in South Korea. Most of the population there is isolated from and indifferent to international and Korean happenings. Despite the decimation of Communist strength in the area, it is probable that a hard core of Communist leaders remains.)

General Situation

Economic

On 14 and 15 January Acting Premier Paek told the National Assembly that although the national income had increased ten percent in the past year, government expenditures had risen much more rapidly. He stated that 50 to 52 percent more foreign aid will be necessary this year to meet the needs of the wartime economy than was received last year.

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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1371, 21 January 1953

DAILY KOREAN BULLETIN

Military Operations

Army

On 19 and 20 January enemy action across the army front was characterized by minor probes and patrol clashes. The enemy fired a total of 10,589 rounds of artillery and mortar fire during the two-day period.

Navy

Naval air sorties on 19 January totaled 42, all on the west coast, as Task Force 77 on the east coast was engaged in refueling activity. The 1st Marine Air Wing flew eight close-support missions for UN troops on the west coast. UN naval units on the east coast patrolled and bombarded near Chongjin, Songjin, and Chaho. In addition damage was inflicted on railroad installations near Hungnam and Sohori. On the west coast, troop areas near Changsangot were blasted.

On 20 January no report was received concerning east coast air activity while 49 carrier-based sorties were flown from the Badoeng Strait off the west coast. These aircraft attacked enemy installations near Chinnampo, Wolsari and Changsangot and on the Ongjin Peninsula. Surface units on the east coast damaged one harbor area and one railroad installation at Songjin and Chaho, respectively. UN naval vessels patrolled off the west coast with no firing reported.

Air

UN land-based aircraft under Far East Air Force control flew 618 effective sorties, including 338 combat. A total of 57 enemy MIG's was observed during the 24-hour period, 11 of which were engaged by UN pilots. There was no loss or damage to either side. During the night 17 effective medium bomber missions were flown with supply areas to the north of Pyongyang being attacked by 11 of the B-29's. On Tuesday 19th 4 combat out of a total of 410 land-based sorties were flown. While on patrol in the Yalu River area, UN pilots observed 46 enemy MIG's and engaged nine. Two MIG's were probably destroyed and another reportedly damaged with no loss or damage to UN aircraft. On the night of 20-21 January, 18 effective medium bomber missions were flown. A supply area at Puncho-ri, near Hungnam, was bombed by 13 B-29's.

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Military Intelligence

Army

The relief of the I North Korean Corps on the eastern front by the VII North Korean Corps was accepted by the Far East Command on 19 January, based on recent POW information. The I North Korean Corps is now tentatively carried in the vicinity of Marhwi-ri.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Current Intelligence
1372, 22 January 1953

D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

Military Operations

Army

On 21 January the principal ground action took place in the eastern sector where two North Korean platoons unsuccessfully probed an outpost position of the ROK 11th Division. Elsewhere across the front, action consisted of brief probes and patrol clashes. A total of 4,308 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell during the period.

Navy

An incomplete total of 65 naval air sorties was reported on 21 January, all on the west coast. These carrier-based aircraft attacked troop concentrations and railroad installations from Chinnampo to Haeju and on the Ongjin Peninsula. Surface units on the east coast bombarded harbor areas from Songjin to Chaho and gun positions and a truck convoy at Wonsan. There was only limited surface activity on the west coast as two UN vessels fired on the Ongjin Peninsula.

Air

On 21 January there were 539 combat sorties flown out of a total of 856 by land-based planes. Enemy troops and gun positions near the front line were attacked by 150 UN fighters and fighter-bombers flying close-support missions for UN ground troops. UN jet pilots on patrol in the Yalu River area observed 79 enemy MIG's during the daylight hours. In aerial engagements with 43 of the MIG's, UN aircraft destroyed seven and possibly damaged six. One F-86 Sabre sustained minor damage. On the night of 21-22 January, 17 effective medium bomber sorties were mounted by FEAF Bomber Command. A troop training area at Kwang-hyon in north central Korea and a marshaling yard at Kowon near Wonsan were attacked by 10 of the B-29's.

Military Intelligence

Air

MIG sorties during the week ending 18 January were the highest since the last week in April 1952. Far East Air Force states that the increased activity could possibly be explained by the flight of a transport-type aircraft sighted on Antung airfield on 13 January which may have carried high-ranking Communist officers on an inspection of air operations and facilities.

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The pattern of the enemy air operations, however, remained defensive in nature as evidenced by the fact that the majority of the MIG-15's presently being observed are believed to be stationed at rear bases and not, as formerly, on the Antung, Tatungkou and Takushan airfields. Also, during the past week the Communists showed little interest in initiating attacks on UN fighters and fighter-bombers. The destruction of two UN B-29's in night air-to-air combat encounters was not believed due to the more efficient use of GCI equipment and techniques, but rather to the bright moonlight and a more effective use of searchlights.

General Situation

Propaganda

Chinese Communist propaganda media on 22 January were making a big play on Premier Chou En-lai's allegation that a US medium bomber was shot down over Manchuria on 12 January after invading Manchurian airspace. Chou stated that the presence of the B-29 over Manchuria gave evidence of American "preparation for extending the war." (The Chinese Communists have frequently alleged that US aircraft have violated Manchurian airspace, and in some instances have claimed that such violators were shot down. The issuance of such charges by Chou En-lai, however, is unusual. The US Air Force in the Far East has stated that the aircraft was downed over North Korea.)

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